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LETTER DATED 21 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith enclosed the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia regarding United Nations Security Council resolution 874 (1993).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 20 October 1993 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on United Nations Security Council resolution 874

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia expresses its appreciation for the continuing concern of the United Nations Security Council for ending the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and the peaceful solution of the problem.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia welcomes particularly the clear and unequivocal endorsement by the Security Council of the principle underlying the CSCE Minsk group's "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)." To end the bloodshed and make a peaceful negotiated solution to the problem possible the "Timetable" must be limited to the implementation of the reciprocal and step by step measures that bring about the consolidation of the cease-fire, the end of the blockades, and the withdrawal of forces from recently occupied territories.

Armenia endorses fully the positions adopted by the Security Council regarding the settlement of all remaining issues through peaceful negotiations and within the Minsk process.

We are especially gratified that by welcoming and commending the "Timetable" of September 28 the United Nations Security Council recognizes the leadership of Nagorny Karabakh as a party to the conflict.

We also welcome the resolution's appreciation of the special role of the Russian Federation; the call to all to provide access to humanitarian relief efforts to the region, which places specific obligations on the Government of Turkey; the increased presence of the United Nations within the Minsk process and closer cooperation between the United Nations and CSCE; and the appeal to restraint in order to avoid an internationalization of the conflict.

Armenia continues to reject any language in the resolution which may prejudice the outcome of the Minsk Conference. The CSCE Minsk process, which this resolution endorses unreservedly, has been based on the universal agreement that the political status of Nagorny Karabakh will be determined through negotiations at the Minsk Conference. Armenia's agreement to seek a negotiated solution to the problem within the CSCE Minsk process is conditioned by acceptance of that principle; we consider any expression or action which may prejudice the outcome of the Conference as contrary to that principle and as counterproductive and harmful to the process itself.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia accepted the "Timetable" on October 6, expressing hope that the main parties to the conflict, Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan, will do the same. We are gratified by the active participation of the leadership of Nagorny Karabakh in the Minsk process and their constructive response to the "Timetable", which Armenia believes brings the parties closer to an understanding.

The Foreign Ministry of Armenia is deeply concerned, however, with the rejection of the "Timetable" by Azerbaijan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan has adopted at this time positions more rigid and inflexible than in recent times and has retreated from such views which had already created difficulties during the Moscow and Paris rounds of the Minsk group negotiations.

The current Azerbaijani position raises serious questions on whether Azerbaijan has actually rejected the military option, a position full of dangers.

The Foreign Ministry of Armenia hopes that Azerbaijan will review its position in light of the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 874 and will come forth as a reliable partner in peaceful negotiations.